IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, which replaces all previous versions and listings of the claims.

1. (previously presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a metallic substrate;

an electroless nickel alloy layer disposed over the metallic substrate, wherein the electroless nickel alloy layer comprises phosphorous;

an outer electrolytic nickel layer disposed over the electroless nickel alloy layer; and

an inner electrolytic nickel layer disposed over the metallic substrate, wherein the electroless nickel alloy layer is disposed over the inner electrolytic nickel layer.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, comprising a polymeric coating layer disposed over the outer electrolytic nickel layer.

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the outer electrolytic nickel layer consists essentially of nickel.

7-26. (canceled)

27. (previously presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a metallic substrate;

a first Wood's nickel strike layer disposed over the metallic substrate;

an electroless nickel-containing layer disposed over the first Wood's nickel strike layer;

a second Wood's nickel strike layer disposed over the electroless nickel layer; and

a polymeric layer disposed over the second Wood's nickel strike layer.

28-34. (canceled)